

## MR. WATSON TALKS.

The Commissioner of Immigration Tells New York Paper

### OF NEW STATE DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner Watson Makes a Statement of What He Hopes to Accomplish in Bringing White Labor Here.

By an act of the South Carolina legislature which went into effect on Feb. 26 there was created in the State a department of agriculture, commerce and immigration. E. J. Watson of Columbia, a representative of the new generation of energetic young business men who are the impelling force back of the recent awakening of southern industries and commercial activity, has been selected by Gov. Heyward as the first commissioner of the new department.

Mr. Watson has been in New York for several days on business connected with his office. This summer he will make a trip to Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Germany, with a view to presenting the advantages of South Carolina as a field for the desirable class of immigrants who come from those countries. Speaking Wednesday of his visit to New York and of the circumstances which led to the creation of the department of which he is the head Mr. Watson said:

"My presence in New York at this time is due to the new conditions that have arisen in the middle south, and it is no unmeaning errand considered in the light of the development of the country. The rapid development of southern manufacturing and the consequent robbing of the fields of the white tenant farmer class, the demonstration given to the world last fall of the dependency of its cotton manufacturing interests on the south for raw material, not alone in this country but abroad—these and the tendency of the negro to move to the centers of population and thence to the east are the three essentials to be considered.

"It is perhaps a strange and yet not unexpected condition that the very rapid development of the manufacturing industry of the south—particularly in my State—should result in injury to agricultural interests. The explanation, however, is easy. When we went ahead and put nearly \$40,000,000 into cotton mills, which could only be operated with white labor for reasons it is not necessary to discuss, we simply robbed our fields of the white tenant farmer class and left the agricultural interests in such a condition as to demand the attention of the State government. Then came a move of Sully and Brown which has revealed to the whole cotton manufacturing world its dependency upon the cotton growing states of this country, accentuating the acuteness of a situation already seen and realized. The farmers fared well and they have profited. Now they realize their power and their opportunity, but they find themselves without the necessary labor, and intelligent labor they must have. They consequently want something and want it quickly.

"Another phase of this situation is the negro question. Our farmers have always had plenty of negro labor on their places. Today they are crying for labor with which to work their crops. Having lost the white tenant farmer for the reasons assigned, they have suffered the additional partial loss of the negro farm laborer. This is due to the fact that the negro's tendency, in our State at least, in the last few years has been, first, to seek the larger centers of population and commerce. In the cities he finds himself poorly clad, irregularly and ill fed and a natural victim of immorality—the consequent sufferer from diseases which tend to balance the death and birth rate. Again, his tendency is to seek railroad construction camps and to move north and east. The exemplification of this can be most strikingly found in Washington and Baltimore, and even here in New York, the increase in the negro population in the two first name cities having been reached in the last two or three years.

"All of these things have combined, together with the appearance of the boll weevil in Texas, to awaken the agricultural interests of the South to a realization of the fact that something must be done. The great need is white settlers from this country and abroad. My State has seen the situation, and that is why I am here. Our farmers know that the boll weevil, unless an insect to destroy him is discovered, is likely to cross the Mississippi at any moment and do what Sully had done this year, with the additional feature that the effect on prices will be permanent. They know that if the weevil does come prices will remain high, and that the danger of this pest is an element in the situation. They realize that they want diversified and intensified farming, and, knowing this, they have succeeded in establishing, near the heart of the State, diversified farm No. 1, by the federal government, under the boll weevil appropriation.

"Further, knowing the need of intelligent labor, the State has established its department of agriculture, commerce and immigration, at the head of which I have been placed for four years, with the view of inducing desirable investments and settlers from north European and American points to come to South Carolina—the real garden spot of the world, possessing a soil and climate producing some crop the year round. We have thousands of acres of land lying idle at this time, and it is the province of the new department to bring about their development.

"The department has been fashioned upon the best features of national and State departments of like nature, and the scope is broad enough to admit

of its handling any conditions that may arise affecting industrial development.

"I am here now to set the ball in motion toward getting that which we so greatly need—intelligent white labor of Saxon origin. The work, so far as is of constructive character, but I trust it will be prolific of genuine results. I am dealing with all having any interest in the situation that is attracting attention to the middle south—the southern France of America—and thus far effectively. I am trying to see all who are interested in any way, for I feel that those who invest or settle in South Carolina have a bright future awaiting them. When the waste places have been populated the act under which we are operating is so constructed that we can turn our attention to other plans of development as the necessity for them arises.

"There is no part of the country that offers so many inducements as does the middle south just now to the native and foreign settler and investor. Our State department has just been launched, but I believe it is constructed upon better and broader lines than any similar State department in the country, and I expect noteworthy results. We are now in a position to offer to the desirable farmer from across the water lands upon which he can raise something the year round, and with due consideration to all conditions I cannot see wherein the element of failure enters. I know we have obstacles to surmount, but obstacles are ever an element in the success of any important undertaking which is of itself a departure from the beaten tracks.

"All the Southern States are beginning to awaken to the value of their own resources, and it is safe to predict that in the next few years this part of the United States will become a considerable factor in the production of the wealth of the country at large. Eastern capital at this time paying more attention to southern land and other investments than ever before, and the spirit of progress is today running strong in places where a few years ago the people seemed to be ignorant of their opportunities."—New York Sun.

### Homicide in Berkeley.

A special dispatch from Honey Hill to The News and Courier says "using a double-barrelled shotgun, loaded with buckshot, young John Wilson Sunday afternoon shot and killed his uncle, Mr. E. S. Wilson. The young man went to Monck's Corner Monday and gave himself up to Sheriff J. B. Morrison, and it is likely that he will attempt to get bond. All the parties concerned are well known and the shooting caused quite a stir. The trouble seems to have started over a dispute about a gate, although bad blood is said to have existed for a long time. The dead man, so it is said, went Sunday afternoon to the home of his nephew, and, after tearing down the disputed gate, went to the house, and abused, and, some say, cursed, the father and mother of the younger man. The son remonstrated, whereupon Wilson turned upon him. Young Wilson then shot, killing his uncle almost instantly. Mr. Wilson is said to have been drinking heavily when he went to his brother's house."

### Students Shoot a Man.

At Lexington, Ky., Coley Hayden, 19 years old, was shot at the State college baseball park Friday by Lee Anderson, a State college student, who was acting as guard at the park. The bullet entered Hayden's left shoulder and inflicted a serious wound. Police Capt. Brown went to the park to arrest Anderson. As soon as Anderson learned his mission, he pulled his revolver and declared he would not submit to arrest. A crowd of 200 State college students backed him up in his refusal. Capt. Brown rushed in before he could shoot, however, and after a tussle, disarmed Anderson. He was placed under arrest and the students made no further attempt to keep him from the police. Later he was released on bond. The State college and Central university were engaged in a game of baseball, and Hayden was looking on through a crack in the fence. Anderson ordered him away when, it is said, Hayden cursed him. Anderson thereupon shot him with out further words.

### Adams Will Hang.

The supreme court Monday handed down two important decisions of general interest throughout the state. The first was in the case of R. A. Adams, a white man convicted in Colleton county, for the killing of Henry Jacques, also white, in February, 1903, sentenced to hang. When the verdict was rendered an appeal was taken to the supreme court on the ground of error in the admission of certain evidence and error in the charge to the jury. The case was argued in the supreme court some time ago, the state being represented by the attorney general or Mr. Townsend and the defendant by Howell Gruber and J. M. Walker. The decision Monday simply affirms the finding of the lower court and the case goes back now to the lower court for sentence to be pronounced.

### Horrible Train Wreck.

A special to the Chronicle from Carrollton, Ga., says: A through freight on the Southern Railway ran into the caboose of a local freight train at Temple, Ga., Sunday afternoon, burying Mrs. Fred Dill and two children three carloads of coal. The mother and one child were killed instantly and the second child cannot survive.

### Had a Fight.

A dispatch from Huntington, W. Va., says that John McFarland, chief of police of North Fork, and J. A. Ballard, a lumber merchant, are dead, as the result of a pistol duel which followed the Republican district convention at North Fork. They met after the convention, the lie was passed and the shooting occurred.

## WANT TO COME HERE.

Views of a New Englander Who Wants His People

### TO SETTLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

One Among Many Who Wish to Settle in a More Temperate Climate.

A Sincere Yankee Declaration.

To the Editor of The State:

I have received two letters from my friend, Mr. Howard, who is deeply interested in getting Massachusetts men to settle in South Carolina.

In his letter of March 23d Mr. Howard says:

Ware, Mass., March 23, 1904. Col. John P. Thomas, Charleston, S. C. Dear Sir: The Columbia State at hand. Your editorial O. K. I am inclined to think Mr. Watson thinks you and I have too much to say. At any rate he don't condescend to acknowledge our good intentions. I see M. V. Richards has sent a man to Columbia in the interest of Southern railroad. We no doubt will see the workings of the bureau of immigration in good time if we only will have patience. Mr. Watson is no doubt working his brains. The class of people this very State of Massachusetts has allowed to come in last year are a curse to any country, and are continually dumped over here—to the benefit of the country they leave, and a curse to the one they come to. If you don't believe it visit any of the manufacturing cities of Massachusetts. I am, Very truly yours, W. V. HOWARD.

In his letter of March 24th Mr. Howard says:

My Dear Colonel: I sent you a few clippings yesterday and I see one in last night's paper I thought I would send you today, with my views of it. I have advertised my property for the last three weeks in 10 papers, viz.: Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Worcester Gazette, Springfield Republican, Springfield Union, Springfield Homestead, Hartford Courant, Ware River News and Barre Gazette. Yes, 10 papers, and I have had but one man to call to look at my farm and some six letters of inquiry. The trouble in New England is the cold winter for me; that is the one great reason I want a change and I can't see why the west part of South Carolina is not an ideal place for me, a full blood, dyed-in-the-wool Yankee, and lots more of us who have always been workers, and are willing to let our arm out if we can come with the right hand of fellowship extended.

I know that there are some people in South Carolina who look upon the New England Yankee as tricky, sharp and always looking for the almighty dollar. This may be so to an extent, but these yarns as to the Yankee being a "negro lover" is all bosh; the class of people I would like to see have a chance to better themselves want none of it. There may be in and around Harvard college and Beacon street a few so-called "nigger lovers," but they want them at arms length. Now in my town of 9,000 people there has never been in the past 50 years but one colored family. Our people outside of the cities know nothing of them and want nothing of them, only they would like to see the colored man, as long as the Great Creator has put him on the earth, given a chance to have a home and country and some of God's blessings that are given to others; and the most of the people, that is, the class I have requested you to present to the chief of the bureau of immigration for his consideration, would much prefer this government (instead of the millions that have been blown in foolishly and needlessly in the Philippines on a lot of people who want no part of us, and 90 per cent. of the people of this country want no part of them) would give to the head of every colored family a home of 25 or 50 acres of land in, we will say, Central America, Cuba or Jamaica. Give the colored man a country of his own and a flag; establish him on his land with proper looking after and advice till his children can have the benefit of schools. That the colored people can live in this part of the world and a white man would have a hard time of it, is well known; that is the way the Yankee who works for a living would solve the negro problem.

My dear colonel, I started to tell you how I was trying to sell out here and don't have the success I could wish; the fact is there are 1,000 farms for sale to one buyer; farms are a drug in New England. I intend to write you from time to time anyway in order to keep posted as to immigration, etc. I am, Very truly, etc., W. V. HOWARD.

This is one clipping Mr. Howard sends:

"The Hartford Post lightly says: 'Four Waterbury hotels were plumed full the other night when a colored clergyman applied for a room in one after another of them.' It is for this reason that so many northerners see fit to protest against the introduction of Jim Crow cars in the south. They have an easier method here."—Springfield Republican.

This is another: "Tables of figures showing the immigration of foreigners into New England during 1903 have just been completed by Rev. Joel S. Ives of Hartford, who for the past four years has conducted a census of the foreign population of the six States in behalf of the Congregational Home Missionary society. According to his figures, the influx of foreigners last year was as follows: Maine, 1,997; New Hampshire, 1,861; Vermont, 1,611; Massachusetts, 65,757; Rhode Island, 9,467, and Connecticut, 21,813, a total of

102,506. Southern Europe supplied a great number of these immigrants, for the total 28,151 were Italians and 11,877 Poles."—Springfield Republican.

The third clipping I give is from the same paper, the Springfield Republican:

"The south wants white immigration, but is denied it, and why that section in vain seeks to attract such immigration is thus stated by the Wilmington (N. C.) Star:

"As long as we lynch in the south, and furthermore draw our guns and shoot each other to death on the streets, we are wasting time in establishing immigration bureaus. People will be deterred from immigrating to a State where a big murder record is made year in and year out."

"The Charleston News and Courier says of this that 'that is the plain truth plainly spoken. Only the desperately adventurous and most undesirable would seek residence in a community or State where a citizen's ability to draw a pistol and shoot first is his greatest security.' Such talk from southern newspapers is very encouraging. No situation, however bad, is hopeless where the truth finds outspoken and fearless utterance."

Whereupon Mr. Howard comments as follows:

"There are knifing, cutting, shooting and crimes of all sorts 50 per cent. more in New England than in the south."

I wish to add that Mr. E. J. Watson, the State commissioner, has informed me that it is his purpose to communicate with Mr. Howard with the view of ascertaining how he can advance the cause of immigration to the south in New England.

It is such men as Mr. Matteson and Mr. Howard and such railroads as the Southern that advance in a practical way the main purposes of the bureau of immigration. Let them be encouraged and sustained for the public good. Jno. P. THOMAS.

March 30, 1904.

### CONVICTS REVOLT.

An Uprising of Prisoners in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

A desperate attempt was made by about fifty convicts at the Missouri penitentiary to blow up that institution early Wednesday morning, killing all the guards who interfered with them and to turn loose on Jefferson City some three hundred criminals.

At 10 o'clock Buck Williams, a guard in charge of the jail, heard some one call, "hold up your hands" which was immediately followed by a shot. Williams grabbed a poker and yelled at a convict, "fire away."

Yardmaster Lehigh heard the shot and sounded a general alarm. John Brunner assistant yardmaster arrived, and breaking a window levelled his gun at a convict who dodged into a cell after firing another shot.

Several guards with guns appeared but Brunner was the only one who had nerve to go into the cell building. Taking an extra gun Williams and Brunner entered the building and with Williams proceeded to a cell, where the convicts had been seen.

They called on the guards, "Hold up your hands!" But later brought their guns into play and the convicts submitted.

A search of the cell was made and twenty pounds of dynamite, besides a bottle of nitro-glycerine, two revolvers and a box of cartridges, were found and a number of skeleton keys. It is not known how the weapons or explosives were obtained.

### Gave Life for Friend.

Four men lost their lives in an explosion Friday at the Pintsch Gas Compressing company's plant in southwest Washington. The dead are: Stephen Henson, Charles W. Grigsby, Joseph Cumberland and an unknown negro. Henson, Cumberland and the negro were instantly killed. Grigsby was seriously burned and died at the hospital. His injuries were the result of an heroic attempt to rescue his comrades. He rushed into the engine room and catching the arm of Cumberland, who was buried in the debris, tried to drag him out. The flames rapidly enveloped Grigsby but he released his hold on Cumberland only after the arrival of the firemen. He told the hospital physicians that the disaster was caused by the gas becoming too high and the inability of the men to find the leak. "The room," said he, "must have been full, the gas kept rising and the roof was blown off."

### The New Stamps.

The new series of stamps commemorative of the Louisiana purchase exposition will be placed on sale by the postoffice department April 30 and will be continued till December 1st. The designs are as follows: One cent, with portrait of Robt. R. Livingston, United States minister to France, who conducted the purchase negotiations; two cent, red, portrait of Thos. Jefferson, president at the time the purchase was made; three cent, purple, portrait of Jas. Monroe, special ambassador to France; five cents, blue, portrait William McKinley, who as president approved the act of congress officially connected with the exposition; ten cent, brown, bearing United States map, showing the territory of the purchase.

### A Trust "Buster."

Congressman John W. Gaines, of Tennessee, in a speech against an appropriation for building a road in Alaska, said that his constituents needed good roads and besides were oppressed by trusts, but the oppression of the ice trust had been relieved by Chief Justice Alton B. Parker and others in New York, when the Democrats applauded the name of Parker, and Mr. Gaines again provoked applause on the minority side by saying: "We are going to put him in the White House. He is going to crush the balance of the trusts in this country, which the Republicans will never do."

## HORRIBLE DEEDS.

Told by a Presbyterian Missionary to the Congo Free State.

### THE CANNIBAL ARMY MURDERS.

Innocent Women and Children Who Are Captured to Show that Work of Raiding Villages is Well Done.

Dr. W. M. Morrison, Southern Presbyterian missionary to the Congo Free State, in an address at Louisville, Ky., gave an impressive recital of alleged barbarities practiced on the natives of Congo by the authorities, and of the obstacles thrown in the way of their correction by the officials.

He said: "I lived with these people seven years, and know what I am talking about. King Leopold has there a native cannibal army of twenty thousand men, officered by white Belgians and armed with repeating rifles. They are men representing the worst and most savage type of natives, caught and carried far from their homes and forced into military service. In turn this soldiery is used to compel the natives to bring in enormous tribute of ivory and rubber. It is worth nothing that the King of Belgium is today is reputed to be the largest dealer in ivory and rubber in the world."

"As a result of forced military service and labor, great and unspeakable cruelties are practiced on the natives. I have seen five thousand fleeing to the forests to escape the cannibal soldiers of King Leopold. I have seen soldiers scouring through the forests catching men wanted by the government as laborers and taking the captives away with ropes tied around their necks."

"Raids upon villages are constantly made, some are killed, others sold into captivity and others forced into labor and military service. One can buy all the slaves wanted for ten or fifteen dollars each. In these raids innocent women and children are killed or captured. Their hands are cut off to be taken back to the Belgian officers to show that the work has been well done. On one of these raids near the mission stations, one of our missionaries counted eighty hands cut off, drying by a fire to be taken to an officer and forty-five dead lying near."

"The Belgian government make a stereotyped denial of all charges. I have seen personally the Governor of the Congo Free State and have been in the palace of the King of Belgium; neither will do anything. The British government is interested in the situation. Consul Roger Casement, of the English and American representative to Congo, has just made a tour of investigation. His report is now in the hands of the government at Washington and presents a most deplorable situation."

### A Mysterious Shooting.

The Columbia State says a mysterious shooting affray, in which a handsome woman stylishly dressed figured and also officiated as target, took place Saturday afternoon on Sumner street in front of the South Carolina college mess hall while some of the students were at dinner, and was seen by a dozen or more people. When first noticed there were two men with a woman walking between them on the sidewalk. That they were quarrelling was plain from their gesticulations and facial performances. Presently one of the men, who seemed to be conducting the offensive side of the interesting controversy, in pantomime as it were, withdrew from the woman and the other man suddenly and quickly, and when he had reached a distance of about 30 feet in front of them, witnesses say, he wheeled and drawing a revolver from his hip pocket fired at the woman five times in rapid succession. She screamed and ran in the opposite direction, the other man with her scuttling off in still another direction. The man with the revolver unbreached his weapon and threw the shells out at his feet. Quickly read-justice it, he placed it back in his pocket and departed hurriedly in the direction of the union station. Nobody could be found Sunday who could identify any of the strange and mysterious trio, and none could be found who had seen any member of the little party after its sudden dismemberment on the occasion of the shooting. Neither of the parties appeared to have been hit. Nobody had broken the news at police headquarters Sunday night until a reporter made inquiry, when a private recalled to the chief that he did have a recollection of the matter being reported to him by some of the students.

### Can't Pay More Rent.

General and concerted demands of landlords on the lower East Side of New York for more rent will send thousands of people homeless into the streets within a week. Unable to meet the demand for increased rents the tenants, who are the poorest of the poor, told the landlords that they are unable to keep the miserable hovels they call home. Notices of an increase of nearly thirty per cent have been served. Several families have already been evicted and a hundred other eviction notices have been secured from the municipal courts and are ready for service.

### A Good Law.

The legislature of New Jersey has done well in passing a bill making it a crime to sell cigarettes to a child under fourteen years of age. Though it may be impossible to strictly enforce the law, as has usually been the case with such statutes elsewhere, it will doubtless do some good in the way of stopping the abominable habit of children smoking cigarettes.

## A WOULD-BE SWINDLER.

Coughed up the Money When the Doctor Dosed Him.

At Columbia Wash Kinsler, a young negro man, will be given a preliminary before United States Commissioner Vernor shortly on the charge of attempting to pass counterfeit money. The story of Kinsler's attempt to escape and his attempt to evade the charge is strange. Kinsler walked into the fruit store of the Syrian, George Mack, on upper Main street, Saturday night at 12:30. He purchased a pair of cheap earrings and some fruit and carelessly threw down what purported to be a \$2 bill. Mack spotted the counterfeit at once. Officer Dunning happened to be passing and was called in. The situation was taken in at a glance and the officer grabbed Kinsler. He was just a little too late, however, for Kinsler rammed the bill in his mouth and swallowed it, despite the choking he received. Then Mr. Dunning called for Dr. Pope, the city physician, and the rest was easy. A hyperdermic injection was given Wash, which acted as an emetic and the bill "came up" in about three minutes. The negro was searched for more counterfeit bills. No bills were found, but a watch he had stolen was recovered and the negro stands a chance of serving a term for the State for larceny and for the United States for attempting to pass counterfeit money, the penalty for the latter, according to the revised statutes, being from five to fifteen years. The bill which Kinsler attempted to pass is an old Richmond Building and Loan certificate, this association flourishing about 1878. The certificate looks very much like money and there are a number of them floating around. Kinsler lives on Gates street, near Senate, and his reputation heretofore has been very good.

### Six End Their Lives.

In New York an unusual number of suicides, at least half of them due to despondency because of inability to secure employment, were reported to the police last week.

Three of the six victims chose carbolic acid as a means of ending their troubles, one chose death by shooting, another by hanging and the sixth accomplished his purpose by turning on the gas.

The most youthful suicide was Eva Pocker, a 17-year-old Brooklyn school girl, who drank carbolic acid after reading a letter, and the oldest, Jacob Reihm, 45, of Manhattan, who had been ill with rheumatism. His body was found hanging in his lodgings. The body of another suicide, a woman, who had ended her life at least two weeks ago by inhaling chloroform, was found in a house on east Thirty-fifth street. A note found with the body said the woman was so deeply in debt that she saw no hope.

The other suicides reported were: James Finney, fireman, who lost his work through drink; Samuel Levy, no work, carbolic acid; Egisto Bertone, stone cutter, shooting, no work; J. Bender, a crayon artist, gas.

Five persons are dead and another is dying as the result of a fire that occurred Wednesday in the Columbia hall building, a metal sheathed three-story structure located in Wilson Place at Mount Vernon, N. Y. The dead:

Nathan Frey, 66 years old. Isadore Frey, 12 years. Stephen Frey, 9 years. Henry Frey, 3 years. Gussie Dobring, 10 years, a cousin of Mrs. Rebecca Frey. Mrs. Frey is dying in a hospital. The first floor of the building was occupied by the Columbia Piano company. On the second floor was Columbia hall, with ante-rooms and on the third floor were apartments occupied by the Frey, Barry and Lavigne families. Fire spread throughout the top floor with great rapidity. The inmates were aroused by the smoke and heat and all endeavored to make their escape but the members of the Frey family were overcome before any of them could even reach a window. Mr. and Mrs. Barry and Mrs. Lavigne managed to reach windows on the third floor and were brought down ladders by the firemen.

All the dead are more or less burned, but their deaths probably resulted, directly from suffocation. The property loss is estimated about \$30,000.

### Located at Last.

Cleveland, Ohio, is still addicted to the Hell habit. A minister in that city recently declared from his pulpit that there is no Hell. As soon as he had made his announcement about Hell, the congregation gathered up the hymnbooks and began to pelt the reverend gentleman in the most unheavenly manner. We are not told what effect this unusual argument had upon him, but if he had any doubts as to the existence of Hell before, the action of his congregation ought to have dissipated them permanently. Hell seems to be very dear to the hearts of the people of Cleveland. It may even be that Cleveland is Hell.

The Jews Crucified. Additional private advices from Lompalanka, Bulgaria, where the anti-Semite riots were reported Wednesday, state that the mob inflicted injuries on the victims resembling those inflicted on Christ. They gashed the sides of the Jews, drove nails in their hands and feet and placed crowns of thorns on their heads. The authorities took energetic measures to crush the outbreak. The Bulgarian government suppressed the news and is trying to prevent antagonizing the Jewish financiers who frequently handle Bulgarian loans.

## BACK FROM NEW YORK.

Commissioner Watson Well Pleased With Prospect for Immigration.

### GREAT INTEREST IN THE EAST.

The South's Opportunities for Settlers and Investments Are Attracting Attention in All Classes.

The Columbia State says Col. E. J. Watson, commissioner of commerce and immigration of South Carolina, returned Wednesday evening after a ten day's trip to New York in the interest of the new work of which he has been placed in charge.

The commissioner has the faculty of taking up everything he does undertake with enthusiasm, and this instance is no exception. He is highly pleased with the results of his trip and seems fully imbued with a determination to accomplish something in the field to which he has been called. The interview and editorial is reproduced from the New York Sun show that Col. Watson "caught on" in New York, as such a paper as The Sun does not open its columns to a nobody.

Soon after reaching the city Wednesday night Col. Watson had a talk with Gov. Heyward and the governor was well pleased with the informal report which he made. Wednesday the governor received the following note from Mr. William Williams of the New York department of commerce and labor:

"Mr. E. J. Watson, the head of your department of agriculture, commerce and immigration called at Ellis Island today with your letter of introduction; It gave me great pleasure to see him and I will assist him to the extent of my ability on his present mission to the east."

When seen Wednesday night Commissioner Watson talked most interestingly of his trip and the prospects for his work. While all that he had learned, considered and undertaken could not be reviewed in the time then at his disposal, he consented to tell of a few things that had come under his observation.

"I have been in the east," he said, "for the last ten days giving the most earnest attention to the southern immigration problem, and arranging all the preliminaries for the founding of the work of the new State department upon a substantial basis. I knew at the outset that the work was one of many ramifications, and that speedy action and vigorous measures would be necessary. Since studying all conditions and the methods employed by the trunk lines of the west and the transatlantic steamship companies, who control the great bulk of the ever inflowing tide of foreign population, I can say that the task ahead of us is no easy one.

"I am greatly gratified at the manner in which I was met by the officials of the government and by those who really control the tide of immigration, and feel that the first fortnight of the new department's career has been well utilized."

"What struck me most forcibly in the east was the widespread interest in all circles—whether Wall street or on Ellis Island, or in eastern business or official circles, or at the national capital—in the movement in the south for immigration and emigration. The federal government, I gathered, would be glad to see the tide turn southward, thus preventing the congestion in large centers of commerce and the consequent misapplication of intelligent farming classes to trades and callings for which they are totally unfit, resulting in deportations. Never have the eyes of the east been so thoroughly turned to the middle south not only in population movements but in investments. The easterners realize the value of our resources better than our own people, and I have received the heartiest assurances of earnest aid and co-operation on all sides.

"In Washington the liveliest interest is manifested on all sides, as has been manifested by the prompt, favorable action taken on Senator Simmons' immigration information measure. I am more than ever convinced of the opportuneness of the movement launched in this State, and I sincerely trust our effort will be crowned with success. One danger is in the people expecting too great results in a short time. The work is necessarily slow, and when it is based upon a determination to handle only such matters as possess the elements of success, patience is an essential. However, I trust results can be shown in certain branches of the work at an early date. Another danger is in the possibility of landowners wishing prices for their lands at first that will make their utilization difficult. I trust that this danger will not materialize. In a few days a call will be issued for information wanted immediately in this office concerning available lands, and official blanks calling for the exact information will be furnished the land owners. The department is already receiving scores of inquiries from all parts of the country.

"Of what has been accomplished and what balls have been set in motion at the country's chief port of entry I do not care to speak just now, as competition in immigration work is so strong I can only say that results thus far obtained exceed my expectations.

"Concise pamphlets of information as to our resources are badly needed and these will be issued at the earliest possible moment. Brief ones will be issued in the different north European languages for speedy use."